

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 599

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 2775

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, EGEN, CVIS, SCUL, BU

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION WITH BULGARIA: THE US-PROPOSED
"STATEMENT" AND INVITATION TO GOB SPECIALISTS

REF: (A) STATE 295028; (B) STATE 294591;
(C) STATE 243350; (D) STATE 280477; (E) SOFIA 2675;
(F) SOFIA 2721.

1. WE HAVE NO TROUBLE WITH WAITING TO SEE HOW THE
BULGARIANS REACT TO OUR PROPOSED CULTURAL/TECHNICAL/
SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER ON
THE AGRICULTURAL STATEMENT AND THE FORMAL
INVITATION FOR BULGARIAN EXPERTS TO COME TO THE US.
FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV HAS SAID WE WOULD HEAR
FROM THE GOB ON THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT BEFORE THE END
OF THIS YEAR. ASSUMING THAT THEIR RESPONSE IS
MODERATELY FORTHCOMING, WE SHOULD THEN PROCEED WITH
INVITATION TO THE BULGARIAN AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS.

2. WE ALSO HAVE NO TROUBLE WITH THE STATEMENT IN
REF B THAT THE JOINT STATEMENT ON AGRICULTURAL
COOPERATION WOULD HAVE TO BE NARROWER IN SCOPE THAN
THE ROMANIAN AND POLISH MODELS. IN FACT, WE BELIEVE
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THAT THE EXPERTS WHOM THE BULGARIANS ARE NOW PREPARED

TO SEND TO THE US WOULD FALL IN WITH THE FORMAT AND CONTENT ENVISAGED IN PARA 3 REF B, ALTHOUGH THEY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TRY TO GET MORE. BUT THERE IS ENOUGH GROUND FOR MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION TO JUSTIFY THE NEGOTIATION OF SUCH A STATEMENT.

3. IF, HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE THE VIEW IN WASHINGTON THAT THE VISIT OF THE BULGARIAN EXPERTS AND THE CONCLUSION OF THE "STATEMENT" CAN BE INDEFINITELY POSTPONED, WE WOULD BE VERY SERIOUSLY CONCERNED. AS STATE AND AGRICULTURE ARE AWARE, THIS MATTER GOES BACK TO AN INITIATIVE OF UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE CAMPBELL WHEN HE WAS HERE IN MAY, 1975. I ALSO HAD OCCASION TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH SECRETARY BUTZ WHEN I SAW HIM IN WASHINGTON JUST AFTER THE CAMPBELL VISIT, AND HE CONFIRMED WHAT CAMPBELL HAD SAID HERE. SUBSEQUENTLY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE, THE MOST SENIOR US DIPLOMATIC OFFICIAL TO VISIT BULGARIA, INFORMED FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV IN SEPTEMBER THAT USG STOOD READY TO INVITE BULGARIAN EXPERTS TO DISCUSS THE AGRICULTURAL STATEMENT. IN FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION IN WASHINGTON OCTOBER 9 (REF C), THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ONCE AGAIN "EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE BULGARIAN EXPERTS TO DISCUSS AND NEGOTIATE TEXT." BECAUSE WE HAD REASON TO BELIEVE (REF D) THAT BUREAUCRATIC PETTIFOGGERY HERE WAS DELAYING A RESPONSE, I RAISED THE MATTER WITH MLADENOV ON DECEMBER 6, REITERATING THE US POSITION THAT WE STOOD READY TO RECEIVE THE BULGARIAN EXPERTS. AS REPORTED REF E, MLADENOV INSTRUCTED HIS STAFF TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENT FOR DCM TO SEE FIRST VICE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE TONEV AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO BREAK THE LOG-JAM. THAT MEETING TOOK PLACE DEC 11 AND CONCLUDED WITH TONEV SAYING (REF F) THAT GOB HAD NO PROBLEM WITH THE IDEA OF A STATEMENT RATHER THAN AGREEMENT AND THAT HE SAW NO REASON WHY ACTION COULD NOT BE TAKEN EXPEDITIOUSLY. (REF A WAS RECEIVED HERE FOUR DAYS AFTER DISPATCH OF REF F.)

4. IN LIGHT OF THIS RECORD IT WOULD BE VERY DAMAGING
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IF WE WERE TO DISOWN THE SUCCESSIVE STATEMENTS ABOUT OUR DESIRE OR WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE BULGARIAN EXPERTS AND TO CONCLUDE A JOINT "STATEMENT". THEREFORE, WHILE A SLIGHT DELAY IN THIS MATTER WILL NOT MATTER VERY MUCH, WE TRUST THAT STATE AND AGRICULTURE ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT A FORMAL INVITATION TO THE GOB TO SEND THESE EXPERTS SHOULD BE SENT IN EARLY JANUARY, ASSUMING THAT THE BULGARIAN RESPONSE TO OUR CULTURAL AGREEMENT

DRAFT SHOWS THAT THEY ARE NOT RAISING INSUPERABLE
OBSTACLES, WHICH WE DO NOT EXPECT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT STATE AND AGRICULTURE
COORDINATE INVITATION AS PER LAST PARA REF F, TO BE
ISSUED AS SOON AS STATE GIVES THE GREEN LIGHT AFTER
ASSESSMENT OF THE IMMINENT BULGARIAN REPLY TO OUR
CULTURAL AGREEMENT DRAFT. ANY UNREASONABLE DELAY
WOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD HERE AND WOULD, AS A MATTER
OF FACT, BE IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN; ALTHOUGH, AS
INDICATED INITIALLY, A SHORT DELAY OF ANOTHER TWO
WEEKS OR SO WILL NOT AFFECT OUR RELATIONS.
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